

Q2 4. (Amended) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder includes a plurality of cavities.

Q3 ✓ 7. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade to define a cutting depth, said blade holder having indicator means for providing an indication of said cutting depth of said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

Q4 10. (Amended) The blade assembly of claim 7, wherein said blade holder includes a plurality of cavities.

Q5 ✓ 13. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a recess that receives the pin and a plurality of cavities.

Q6 ✓ 17. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

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a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin and cavity means.

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✓ 21. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge;

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a recess that receives the pin and a hole; and,

a bonding agent that attaches said blade holder to said blade.

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✓ 24. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin and bonding access means; and,

bonding means for bonding said blade holder to said blade.

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✓ 27. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a front surface that includes a raised surface, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

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✓ 29. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a front surface and reference surface means for establishing a cutting depth of said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives a pin.

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✓ 31. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade such that said blade holder extends from said rear edge of said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

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✓ 45. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising;

a blade holder having a front surface and a recess that receives the pin; and

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a blade attached to said blade holder, said blade having a pair of side edges, a cutting edge, a rear edge and an opening that extends through a thickness of said blade and is located between said cutting edge and said front surface between said side edges.

The applicant is attaching an edited version of the amended claims as an Appendix.